

Santuit Pond Mashpee/Barnstable Barnstable County Cape Cod Watershed

Latitude: 41.6538427 N Longitude: 70.4587907 W



172 Acres Depth: 5 Feet Average 9 Feet Maximum

Primary Gamefish:

Largemouth Bass, Chain Pickerel

General Information:

Santuit Pond is a shallow, fertile, 172 acre warmwater pond with a maximum depth of 9 feet and an average depth of 5 feet. The bottom is predominantly sand overlain with muck, with some areas of gravel and rubble. The pond is groundwater fed and forms the headwaters of the Santuit River (also known as the Cotuit River). Transparency is generally good extending to the bottom even in the deepest hole. Aquatic vegetation is very abundant, although much of it is submerged. The 3.4 miles of shoreline are moderately developed with homes and cranberry bogs and generally steep and wooded.

Access:

Santuit Pond is an enlarged great pond located about a mile north of Route 28 and east of Route 130. A town provided access is at the end of Pocknomett Street, which is off Sandwich/Cotuit Road a little north of its junction with Route 130. The access is an unpaved town right-of-way with a dirt ramp suitable for cartop boats, canoes and light trailered boats. There is parking for approximately six vehicles. During the summer months, parking is limited to town residents with stickers only but boats can be launched and nearby roadside parking can be found. Public foot access can also be made through the Santuit Pond Preserve on the southern end of the pond. The primary access to the Santuit Pond Preserve is in Barnstable where a small access area is available off Santuit-Newtown Road just to the north and west of the Lovells Pond Boat Ramp.

Management History:

Santuit Pond was surveyed on August 17, 1911 and yellow perch, white perch, sunfish pickerel, catfish and herring were reported. Santuit Pond was stocked with smallmouth bass and white perch between 1931 and 1947. A 1948 survey reported that they were unable to sample the pond with seines or gill nets due to a heavy growth of pond weed over the entire pond bottom. It was recommended the pond be managed for chain pickerel and yellow perch. An August 1958 survey found pumpkinseeds, bluegills, brown bullheads, golden shiners, alewives, banded killifish, chain pickerel, yellow perch, bridle shiners, white suckers and white perch. The pond was stocked with 700 hybrid tiger muskies in 1982. Largemouth bass and herring in the pond were studied in 1994 for a Master's thesis.

Fish Populations:

Santuit Pond was last surveyed in July, 1998. The pond is known to contain largemouth bass, chain pickerel, golden shiner, pumpkinseed, alewife, yellow perch, brown bullhead, white sucker, white perch and American eel.

Fishing:

Santuit Pond is one of the most fertile ponds on Cape Cod and offers good fishing for largemouth bass, chain pickerel, pumpkinseed sunfish and brown bullhead. The large amounts of aquatic vegetation during the summer months may hamper fishing at times. There are big largemouth bass here due to the food supply provided by the herring which run up the Santuit River. A seven-pound largemouth was captured here in July of 1998 and displayed at the Barnstable County fair before being released back into the pond. This pond is also producing some very large brown bullheads; try fishing for them on the bottom on early summer evenings. A slip-sinker rig baited with nightcrawlers or small dead shiners should produce results. Santuit Pond is a good bet for ice fishing when conditions permit. Other nearby ponds are Mashpee-Wakeby Ponds and Lovells Pond.

Updated: March 8, 2007 S.T.H.